Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Reasons for lower literacy rate among women include *inter-alia* social prejudices inhibiting the enrolment in attendance of girls in schools, lack of motivation and awareness among women about the usefulness of literacy and education and high incidence of rural powerty which compel majority of women to join the work force in agricultural and allied activities on low remuneration to supplement the family income.

(b) Central Government has taken some of the following steps to reduce the drop-out rate of girl students in the country:

—Opening of non-formal education centres for girls in educationally backward States|Pockets in each State.

—The scheme in operation since 1979-80 on 50:50 Centre State sharing basis has been revised during 1983-84 under which financial assistance to States|uTs are given on 90:10 Centre-State sharing basis, Similarly Central financial assistance is provided to States|UTs for appointment of women teachers under primary schools. Besides the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested from time to time to make special efforts for increasing the enrolment and ensuring retention through various incentives and benefits to the girl students like free studentship, provision of free text-books, stationery, free dress, scholarships, mid-day meals, etc.

Railway line between Pakala and Katpadi

2832. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to construct a parallel railway line between Pakala and Katpadi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Metre Gauge Rail line between Pakal and Tirupati

2833. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Central Railway submitted detailed survey report for the replacement of metre gauge line between Pakala and Tirupati; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) This work has not been approved.

Telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

2834. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone exchanges working at present in the State of Andhra Pradesh District-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more Telephone exchanges in the State, district-wise with the names of the places; and

(c) what is the amount earmarked for the new Telephone exchanges in the State, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There are 1940 telephone exchanges wor-